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September 5 to 8



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By Sylvie D. Nelson

WINDSOR — If there's one word that describes this year's Richmond Fair, it's changes.

Changes for the better. This year, for the first time in the fair's 135-year history, everything will be included in the admission fee. And that means the midway.

Organizers have even booked a bigger midway to please everyone.

"We've increased the number of rides from between three and five in past years to 10 this

year," said fair president Malcolm Wheeler.

There will be six of the mechanical rides geared to adults while four will be kiddie rides.

"The fact that parents won't have to buy tickets for the rides will keep their cost down and they'll be able to spend the entire day," Wheeler said.

Wheeler says the entrance fee increased from \$5 last year to \$6 this year to cover the GST.

CASINO

Another new attraction this year will be the casino.

"We're the smallest agricultural fair in Quebec to have been granted casino rights," he said.

The casino will be open daily from noon until 1:00 a.m. It will be restricted to those 18 years of age or older.

Wheeler says it took three years of negotiations with different governmental agencies to finally have the right to have a casino.

"They wanted to know what we'll do with the money," he said.

Organizers will use the funds raised by the casino to renovate and enlarge the Ladies building.

"We expect to spend \$20,000 on the project over the next two years," said Wheeler.

The Ladies building is the last original building left from 1856.

Organizers are trying to use fair buildings throughout the year.

"We're the only agricultural

society of the Eastern Townships fair boards to have covered facilities for horse shows," he said. "We must promote it

for different horse activities."

The action starts Thursday night with the Inter-club call

See next page



Fair president Malcolm Wheeler says there are a record number of entries in all the competitions this year.

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Flat admission fee for midway should help those tight budgets

From last page
show at 7.

On Friday, elementary school children will spend the morning on the fair grounds and will be treated to a horse show as well as tricks from a magician.

"The horse show will feature both light and heavy horses as well as hitch, saddle and pony classes," said Wheeler.

The horse judging will go on throughout the weekend.

KIDS' GAMES

There will also be children's game such as potato races, musical sacs and masquerades where both ponies and riders are dressed up in different outfits.

This year also features a new class: the four-pony hitch.

The magic show, hosted by Rojam the magician, is sure to be a hit with the kids. Rojam will have birds and rabbits appear from nowhere and perform card and balloon tricks. Members of the audience will be asked to participate.

Wheeler says that this year should be a record year as the number of entries to the various exhibits are at a peak.

"They are completely full in all the categories," he said.

Expected are: 100 light and heavy horses, as well as ponies; 150 Holstein; 40 Ayrshires; 75 Herefords and two new breeds.

"We've had a lot of demand for shorthorns and salers (beef cattle) and decided to include them this year," Wheeler said.

The demand is due to the increasing number of farmers in the region getting in the pure-bred beef cattle business.

PROBLEM

"The biggest problem about bringing two new breeds was the lack of room, but we resolved the problem by crowding everyone else," he said.

Fair organizers are expecting a record 400 exhibitors, not counting the children, and have put together a line-up of activities to entertain visitors and exhibitors alike.

Friday morning at 9, judges will take their critical approach to honey, maple, horticultural, handicrafts and poultry classes.

Sheep judging will follow at 1.

At 7, the French Connection, an acrobatic act that mixes swift moves with comedy, is scheduled to entertain the crowds. The group will also be featured on Saturday at noon and 6:30 as well as on Sunday at 10:30 and again at 1.

The official opening of the fair will be at 8, followed by Rojam the magician and country and western music by Drummondville's Les Alliances.

On Saturday, more judging, starting at 9 of Hereford, Ayrshire, rabbit and Holstein. A horse pull and music gala featuring violonists, accordonists, tap dancers and singers will take place at 1.

"Amateurs from all over Quebec come to compete in our music gala," said Wheeler. "In past years, some have even come from the Lac-St-Jean area."

Etienne Bessette and his musicians will take the stage in the

tent at 8 and again Sunday afternoon.

On Sunday, visitors will have the opportunity to watch farmers compete with their machines in the tractor pull. This event is scheduled for 11.

If tractors aren't your cup of tea, you can catch the pet show where children bring their favorite animals, whether they are the conventional cat or dog or a little more exotic like the grass snake.

At noon, Alice Mellish and the cloggers will dress up in traditional costumes and dance for the crowd.

The fair will close down after the cattle and horse parade at 4.



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Fruit and vegetable judge an avid gardener himself

By Sylvie D. Nelson

RICHMOND — A judge can look for the appearance of an item, its color, size, shape and presentation, but the final decision comes down to a personal choice. Every judge awards the first prize to the item he or she believes represents the best in its class.

Walter McGee, an elementary school teacher, has been a judge at the Richmond Youth fair for the past seven years.

"Each judge has a specialty to judge," he said.

Being an avid gardener, his specialty is anything that has to do with the garden: vegetables, flowers, fruits and plants.

This year, he'll be judging two events: the rock garden and the collection of vegetables, flowers and fruit.

SIZE

"What I first look for is based on what the requirements say," McGee said.

He says participants must also respect the size.

"For the rock garden, exhibitors must create a scene such as a desert or English garden using rocks, plants and water," said McGee.

In the collection, fruits, vegetables and flowers are arranged in a basket or a box.

"Ten points are awarded if the exhibitor has 10 varieties of vegetables, 10 points for five types of flowers and 10 points for five kinds of fruit," he said. "Then there are 10 points for the quality — plumpness and color — and 10 points for the display."

McGee says that because of the storm two weeks ago, there probably won't be that many entries in the fruit, vegetable and flower classes from Richmond and Windsor area residents.

GREEN THUMB

McGee has always enjoyed gardening and figures his grandmother is the one who gave him the green thumb.

"She always liked gardening," he said.

His house is surrounded by gardens.

In the backyard, there's a big herb garden where any cook could find everything to prepare tasty dishes. From the common chive and sage to Egyptian top onion and lemon thyme, McGee dries them up and stores them during the

winter.

"In the spring time, I get rid of half of each kind of herbs and divide them in new plants," he said.

The backyard also hosts a conventional garden with tomatoes, corn, parsley and beets, just to name a few.

"We freeze the vegetables and use them during the winter," said McGee.

ORCHARD

Unfortunately, the storm damaged a lot of his crop, especially corn, which was blown down by the harsh wind.

Then there's the orchard.

McGee has some 40 different kinds of apple trees. Some already give apples, others don't. Most of his trees are dwarf apple trees which are not only smaller in size but they also give apples much faster: in five to six years compared to 10 years for a regular one.

"A 10- to 12-foot tree can give up to one bushel of apples," he said.

Contrary to popular belief, you can't grow a tree from an apple seed.

"You have to graft a branch to roots in order to get a new tree," McGee said.



Walter McGee stands shows some of his corn plants that were damaged by last week's storm.



Exposition
Richmond
Sept-5-6-7-8-

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SCHEDULE

September 5

9:00 a.m. Inter-Club Calf Show

September 6

9:00 a.m. Visit to the fair by Elementary School Children.
10:00 a.m. Judging of honey, maple products, horticultural, handicrafts poultry. Magic Show, Rojan the Magician. Horse Show.
1:00 p.m. Sheep judging. Shorthorn judging.
7:00 p.m. Acrobatic Act, The French Connection. Ladies lead class sheep.
8:00 p.m. Official Opening of the Fair. Magic Act in the tent, Rojan. Orchestra in the tent, Les Alliances from Drummondville, Country and Western Band. Horse Show in the arena.

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**135th
Richmond
Exposition
September
5-6-7-8
1991**

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Richmond Fair Supplement—Thursday, September 5, 1991—7

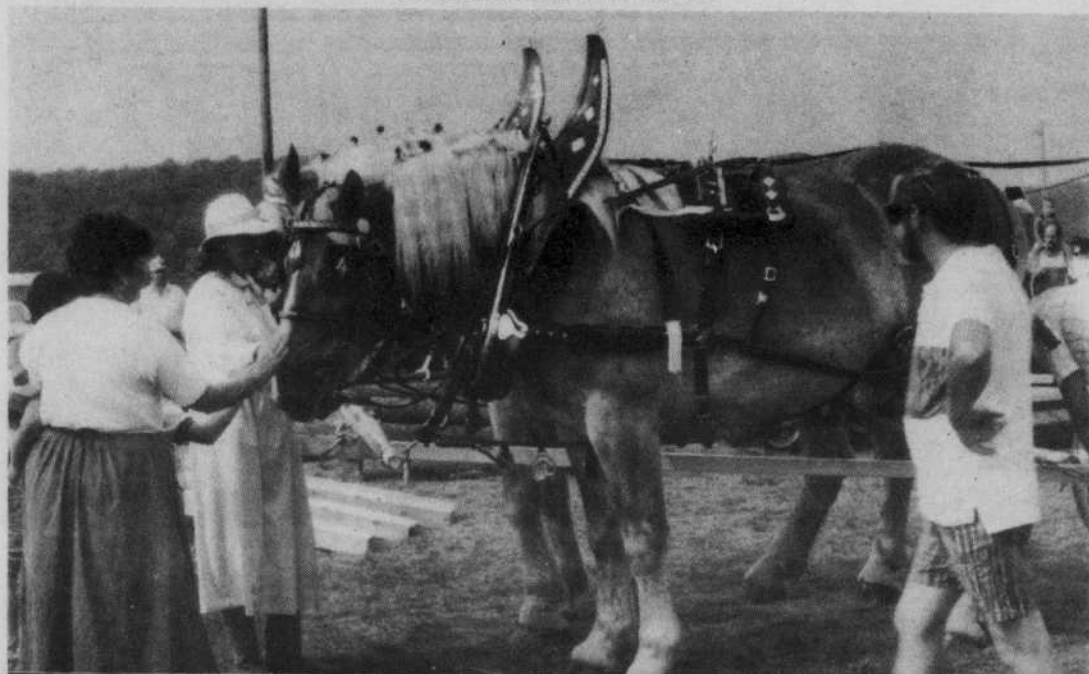
September 7

- 9:00 a.m. Hereford and Ayshire judging.
- 10:00 a.m. Rabbit judging.
- 11:00 a.m. Holstein judging.
- 12:00 p.m. Acrobatic Act, The French Connection.
- 1:00 p.m. Horse Pull.
Music Gala in the tent.
- 6:30 p.m. Acrobatic Act, The French Connection.
- 7:00 p.m. Horse Show in the arena.
- 8:00 p.m. Orchestra in the tent.

September 8

- 9:00 a.m. Horse halter classes.
- 10:30 a.m. Acrobatic Act, The French Connection.
- 11:00 a.m. Tractor pull.
Orchestra in the tent, Etienne Besette and his musicians, Country and Western.
Pet show.
- 12:00 a.m. Alice Mellish and the cloggers.
- 1:00 p.m. Acrobatic Act, The French Connection.
Horse show in the arena.
- 4:00 p.m. Cattle and Horse parade.

PROGRAM SUBJECT CHANGE



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Master cook is hoping for more red ribbons

By Sylvie D. Nelson

RICHMOND — Marge Dobb is an award-winning cook. A glance in her living and dining rooms will prove just that as hundreds of ribbons won at the Richmond fair are proudly displayed on the walls.

She's been exhibiting at the fair since 1981 and every year, she averages 13 first places.

"I have won 8 rosettes for

best pies and rolls at special contests organized by companies," she said.

But don't ask her to give away her secrets. When there's something she doesn't want to reveal, her eyes twinkle and she just giggles.

"I love competition," she said. "I like to win and I work hard at it."

Indeed she does.

COOKING

The day before the fair, Dobb gets up at 6 a.m. and cooks rolls, white bread layered cake, shortbread cookies, butter tarts, chocolate brownies (not iced), pumpkin pie, sliced apple pie, lemon-meringue pie (her specialty) and lemon cake. She bakes all day until she's finished.

See next page



Marge Dobb shows off the many awards she has won over 10 years of competition.



Also an avid gardener, Dobb had some of her flowers ruined in last week's storm.

From pies to preserves, Marge Dobb does it all

From last page

"It's all scheduled," she said. "I do the white bread while the roll batter's rising."

The baking classes are not the only exhibits she enters.

Dobb also pickles and cans various vegetables.

This year, she plans on entering sweet ripe cucumbers, bread and butter (a mixture of cucumber and onions), green tomatoes, hot-dog relish (sweet relish made of cucumbers, celery, red peppers and spices) and numerous others.

"The secret is in the mixture," Dobb said. "And I add my own personal touch, different spices for different pickles."

She knows what she's talking about. Last year, she won all the pickling classes.

Then, there are the jellies, jams and marmalades.

PREPARATION

"It demands a lot of preparation," she said.

Unlike vegetables, however, fruits don't come in season all at once so Dobb has time to rest between batches.

Nothing will stop her from getting the ingredients needed to win.

"I went picking raspberries under 30 degree heat," she said. "All we needed was the sugar."

Dobb will be entering six different types of jellies and jams: cranberry, grape, red current, apple, red raspberries and blackberries; and one marmalade: peach and pineapple.

And that's not all. Dobb not only has talent in the kitchen, she's also got a green thumb.

"My plants are like my kids," she said. "I take care of them and give them vitamins."

This year, she doesn't know how she'll place because the

storm, which hit the Richmond-Windsor area two weeks ago, left many of her prized plants and flowers damaged.

"I had three nice flowers on a plant and two got broken," Dobb said. "I won't be able to show as much as I'd planned."



Fairs are a great place to try out some homemade treats.



'The secret is in the mixture,' Dobb says of her relishes.

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Fresh juice leads to new view of apples

By Sylvie D. Nelson

RICHMOND — It all started with milking a cow for the Coaticook milk festival. Then, from week to week, I've been enjoying little experiences that have helped me understand what country fairs are all about.

It's in that spirit that I bring you my last experience of fair life this summer.

Finding topics for fair articles isn't easy. It's hard to find topics which aren't repeats of a previous fair. It demands a lot of imagination, believe me.

Last week, I was trying to get into one of those creative moods, trying to line up my interviews, setting appointments and still, I couldn't get a fresh idea.

"What can I talk about?" I asked myself over and over again.

Still nothing.
INSPIRATION

Then I went over to Mr. Walter McGee's place, to look over his garden and talk about his duties as judge for the Youth Fair.

Going through his orchard, he asked if I wanted to taste one

of his apples.

You know how every kid eats apples? I was never one of them. The texture does something to my teeth. I just can't stand it — not to mention the taste.

But to make him happy, I took one bite.

I must say, I was surprised. It didn't taste as tart as I had last remembered (from a bite ten years ago).

Mr. McGee said it's because different kinds of apples have different tastes and this kind was sweeter than most.

See next page

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Walter McGee, his son Kevin, 17, and daughter Kim, 10, crush apples for fresh juice.

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come to the Fair

Antique press produces dark and delicious juice

From last page

Then I noticed the old-fashioned apple press and that's when inspiration hit: I'd make some apple juice.

Mr. McGee got his son Kevin to gather some apples.

ANTIQUE

The apples were dropped in the grinder part of the apple

press and Kevin rotated the handle to crush the apples. Once crushed, the pulp dropped in a bucket under the grinder.

This was working wonderfully. Apples were getting grinded and pulp was falling below. Mr McGee bought the antique press from a friend a few years

ago.

Just to prove that new items aren't necessarily better than old ones.

And how much more authentic!

Once the bucket was full, Kevin put a cover over it and put it under the press.

The bucket had space between the slats enabling the juice to escape from the pulp.

The juice didn't have the clear, yellow color of store-bought juice. It was cloudy and reddish.

Very sweet to the taste, the juice had a nice flavor — I almost want to say bouquet — very different than the store-bought kind.

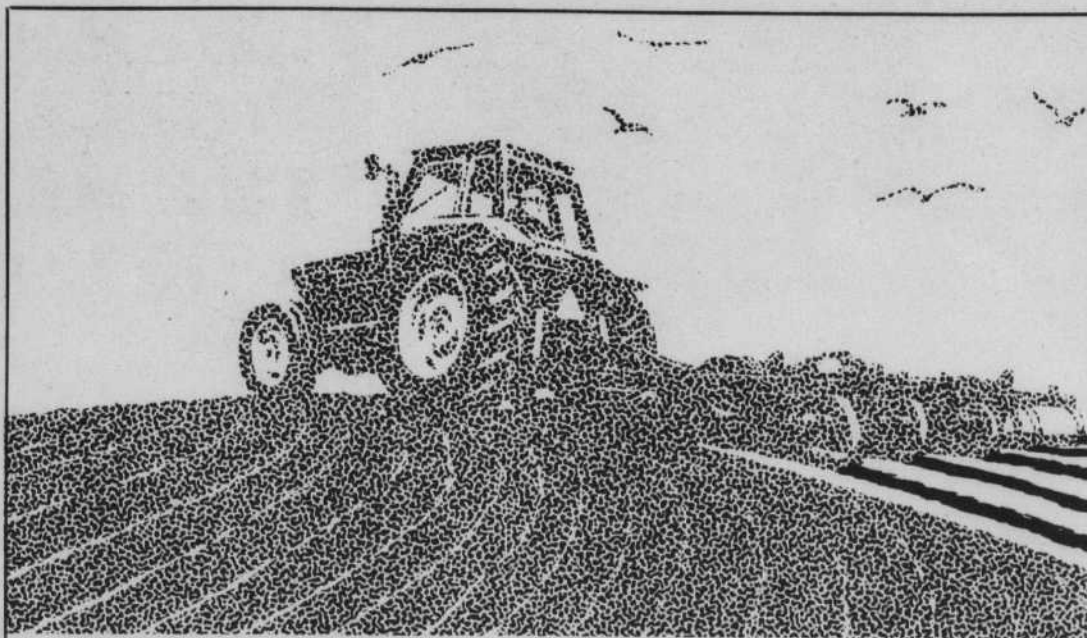
Making apple juice was a little symbolic for me as it indicates the end of the summer and going back to school. So in a way, it was perfect: the closing topic.



Reporter discovered new appreciation for apples after her visit to the orchard.

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A Bank for the Business of Farming

Youth activities are a big part of the fair

By Sylvie D. Nelson

SHERBROOKE — Who said only grown-ups could compete in the different classes at the fair? At Richmond, the Youth Fair is a very popular event. Organizers expect some 700 entries from youngsters up to 15 years of age.

"The Youth Fair was created in 1969 because of the declining participation in the fair," said Youth Fair organizer Allan Nourse.

The first four years saw little participation, but it has come a long way since as more and more school children take part in the different classes.

Everything is arranged with the school district. Children

bring their entries to school and the teachers tag them with the exhibitor's age and school.

AWARDS

"We give out awards to encourage participation and the quality of work," Nourse said.

This year will feature new classes in different age categories, including the "create a dinosaur" category in the five-and-under age group.

"They're really into that at that age," he said. "And it forces them to be creative."

The goal of having these new categories, Nourse says, is to encourage children to enter different events.

There was even a contest organized so students could come up with new categories themselves.

"Back in early spring," Nourse said, "the students thought of new ideas and submitted them to a committee."

NATURE THEMES

Organizers also try to have the children make exhibits using nature themes, such as painting a nature scene — 10

and 11 years old — illustrating and labelling the growth of a vegetable or fruit from seed to harvest — 6 and 7 years old — and mounting and framing an arrangement of dried wild or garden flowers — 12 to 15 years old.

"It gets the youngsters aware

of the environment," Nourse said.

The exhibits will be displayed in the renovated area between the secretary's office and the restaurant in front of the arena.

Judging will take place all day Friday.



Youth fair organizer Allan Nourse says more kids participate every year.

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